



Audrey A. Warren

September 24, 1927 - January 1, 2020

Audrey peacefully passed away January 1st in Vancouver Washington at the age of 92. She lived a life filled with family, service and adventure.

She was born in Ferguson Nebraska to Harold and Ardetta Schafer. When she was six years old, they moved west to Yakima Washington where she spent most of her early years. She was active in the Presbyterian Church, which became a focal point for her socially and spiritually for the rest of her life.

She married her first husband Ronald Warren, became a mother, and raised four boys: Thomas, Mark, Philip and David. She loved them unconditionally, despite an occasional knuckle to the top of the head, and they will miss her dearly. Over the years she spoiled her six grandchildren as well.

Audrey was an independent sort and she did not like to be told she couldn't do something. Her life was full of both challenges and victories; from going to college to eventually teaching at one, from working and raising a family as a single parent to retiring and leading a life of service around the world.

She got her Masters degree in Business Administration from the University of Puget Sound and eventually taught for many years at San Francisco State University, where she became the Business Department chair and helped

encourage many young women to join the ranks of a male dominated profession.

For almost 20 years after retiring, Audrey used her accounting skills to help SIL International and Wycliffe Bible Translators set up offices across the globe. She spent time in Africa, Russia and Asia developing and upgrading their accounting systems and training people to use them. As part of this volunteer effort, she also worked in Dallas Texas for a number of years as Treasurer for the fledgling Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics as it developed into an accredited university.

Audrey loved to travel and had many great adventures in Mexico, Europe and even Egypt. Into her 80's with her little poodle beside her, she would drive from her home in Surprise Arizona up and down the west coast visiting her family. She eventually ended up in Vancouver to be near her beloved sister Carol Schafer, who accompanied her on many of her travels and was at her side when she needed it most.

A memorial service will be held for Audrey at 2pm February 29th, 2020 at the Columbia Presbyterian Church, 805 Columbia Ridge Drive, Vancouver, WA 98664

Tribute Wall



“ 0 file added to the tribute wall

Evergreen Memorial Gardens - July 03, 2025 at 05:21 PM



“ Thanks Dave for a great summary.

Roger Wilson - January 29, 2020 at 12:00 AM

“ Audrey's first involvement in Bible Translation came in the mid-1980s when her cousin Roger Wilson invited her to assist in the installation of accounting software in overseas offices of SIL International. SIL International is a partner organization of Wycliffe Bible Translators. The project was led by Jim Baptista who was a good friend of Roger's. Audrey would tell stories of her trip to Togo in West Africa including the time she went for a walk and inadvertently went around barriers and crossed into a closed area. Police came immediately to arrest her. However, seeing her white hair, they graciously just escorted her out of the closed area. It was on this trip that she met Margrit Kuratli originally from Switzerland, who was doing the accounting in the Togo/Benin office of SIL International. They became fast friends and Margrit would occasionally visit Audrey when she came to the U.S. Audrey moved to Vancouver, WA in the early 1990s. It was at that time through a referral from Jim Baptista, Dave and Joan Cram got to know her. Audrey was soon volunteering in Wycliffe's Portland Regional Office helping Dave oversee the internal audits of Wycliffe and SIL offices. Audrey even went to San Diego for a couple weeks to help Dave with one of those internal audits. She also made a trip to the Philippines with Sally Folkins to do an audit. In October 1997, Dave and Joan moved to Dallas, TX for Dave to serve as Vice President for Finance for SIL and for Wycliffe International. A few months later, David Ross, together with Dave, began developing an independent school called the Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics (GIAL) that could become an accredited university. With classes beginning in the fall of 1999, Dave as the school's treasurer was in need of someone to fill in as the school's bookkeeper for 3 months until the long-term bookkeeper, Paul Setter could come in January 2000. So in the summer of 1999, while in the Pacific Northwest visiting friends and family, Dave asked Audrey if she would be willing to come to Dallas for 3 months and do the GIAL bookkeeping until Paul could come. Audrey said yes, and came. Audrey fell in love with GIAL, and when Dave needed to step down a treasurer in January 2000, because of conflicts with his responsibilities in SIL, Audrey took the position of school Treasurer.

She served in that role for the next 4 years. She bought a house in the Dallas area and settled down. In early 2000, Audrey had double knee replacement surgery. Dave stood in for the family during the surgery, keeping everyone informed of her progress. She stayed in the Cram home during her recovery. In late 2003, Dave was attending meetings, and Joan was planning to drive alone from Dallas to Phoenix to be with family during Thanksgiving and celebrate her mom's 80th birthday. Audrey asked to ride along with Joan to the Phoenix area as she wanted to investigate moving closer to her sons. She was ready to leave her role at GIAL. She found a place in Surprise, AZ and settled in, getting involved as treasurer at her church and other activities in the area. Dave remembers visiting Audrey in Surprise in April 2006 when he was looking at future roles. While he was at her house, he got a call asking him to consider moving to Orlando to head up Wycliffe USA's financial operations. When Audrey heard what the call was about, she strongly, like a mother, said, "No, No, No!" Dave took her word and didn't consider a position in Orlando. Years later, Audrey would move back to Vancouver, WA, settling in at The Quarry. We would visit her regularly, occasionally helping her with financial issues and other needs. But most often just to visit. It has been our privilege to know Audrey these many years. She has had a major impact on us. We praise God for bringing her into our lives. Dave & Joan Cram

Dave Cram - January 27, 2020 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ Audrey was a special friend to me during her time in Dallas. We had many simple days of sharing a coffee and a visit but also enjoyed adventures. I was privileged to visit her in Sunrise and in Vancouver after she left Dallas. I will always remember her with a smile. You have my sympathy. I've met some of Audrey's boys and shared many stories about her sons and their families, she loved you all so much! RuthE Schilberg

RuthE Schilberg - January 22, 2020 at 12:00 AM

“ A tribute to Audrey Warren

Dearest Audrey You have been role model for me - even though we spent relatively little time together.

We met in Togo in October 1985 when you assisted us in the change over from manual to computerized accounting. You, the accounting professor, me, the bookkeeper having only had "on the job training" and being rather insecure, but I still remember your patience. You didn't force any new thing on me but let it sink in - until I could grasp it and agree with you. I wish I could do this more often! What I wrote then is still true 24 years later.

Fast forward to 2003. You had moved to Dallas and invited me to stay with you during my internship in the international finance office. And as you said the other day, what we didn't have in quantity, we made up in quality. I felt at home and at ease the minute I walked into the house. You can also partially 'blame' Patty for the warm welcome. Your servant heart throughout my stay made things absolutely marvelous! - But most of all, I appreciated your openness, your sharing your life with me. It was great to sit and chat and solve the world's problems! - ... what is it deep down inside that made me so very comfortable around you? You accepted me without reservation, you never criticized me, you affirmed me, you let me be myself, I didn't have to prove anything to you to be accepted and loved. Thank you, Audrey, for this gift of love. You made me feel like someone very special, me, an ordinary human being with lots of rough edges. I will always treasure these weeks in my heart. I've also tried to put my finger on what it is that makes you so special. As I was reading Philippians 2:4 I thought, yes, this characterizes Audrey. I liked the translation in the French version and am attempting to translate it back into English: "Don't think only of your personal interests or of the advantage you can get from someone else; on the contrary, desire what is good for others and have their progress at heart." When I read that verse it was clear! Yes, that's you!

You then moved to Surprise, Arizona and I was able to visit you. I admired your sense of adventure, of wanting to learn new things and putting them into practice! Who else your age is learning the

crawl? As I get older, I would like to follow in your footsteps: being open for new things, always eager to learn. Dear Audrey, your time on this earth has found its closure. I imagine Jesus welcoming you with these words: "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!" (Matthew 25,21) I count it as a great privilege to have been one of your many friends.
Margrit Kuratli Riehen,
Switzerland January 2, 2020

Margrit Kuratli - January 21, 2020 at 12:00 AM

MK

“ Audrey A. Warren

Margrit Kuratli - January 21, 2020 at 12:00 AM

MW

“ After a day at the tulip fields ❤️

Mark Warren - January 15, 2020 at 12:00 AM